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## JOHN LOFTON'S JOURNAL

### *On losing both carrot and stick*

*This is the last of three columns  
based on an interview with  
former Secretary of State Henry A.  
Kissinger.*

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Q: Newsweek magazine has carried a story reporting that in March of 1977 you met with Soviet ambassador Dobrynin, denounced President Carter's first SALT proposal as unrealistic and recommended the Soviets reject it out of hand — which they did. Is this true?

A: First of all, the thing is inherently preposterous because when I met with Dobrynin, the Soviets had already rejected it out of hand. If you look at the dates, I met with Dobrynin in about the middle of April. Secretary of State Vance was in the Soviet Union in early or middle March and the Soviets publicly rejected his proposal at the time. Vance announced that it had been rejected at the time. (Soviet Prime Minister) Gromyko held a press conference rejecting it. My meeting with Dobrynin was three weeks afterward and I informed Vance of it before and after.

Q: This report, as you know, was supposedly from one of our agents in Moscow who sent back a classified cable.

A: Let us get this thing straight. There is a school of thought that maintains that almost every agent we've had in the Soviet Union was a double agent. This was the last cable this agent sent before he was arrested. So, the possibility that he had been turned and had been fed this is very high. Even previously I was familiar with this agent which is one very good reason why I would have been insane to say a thing like this since — believe me — I was familiar with his reports.

We had developed doubts about him well before. So, in my judgment, it could have been one of two things. Either Dobrynin was trying to impress his superiors, or — what is more likely — it is a case of Soviet disinformation.

EXCERPTED